

## CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1        1.     A computer data signal embodied in a propagation medium,  
2 comprising:
  - 3            a code segment comprising information corresponding to a digital  
4 representation of an image; and
  - 5            a code segment comprising information corresponding to image meta-data  
6 associated with the image and identified by applying a predefined image analysis  
7 algorithm to the digital representation of the image.
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- 1        2.     The computer data signal of claim 1, wherein the image meta-data  
2 comprises at least one searchable keyword.
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- 1        3.     The computer data signal of claim 1, wherein the predefined image  
2 analysis algorithm comprises a face recognition vector algorithm.
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- 1        4.     An image file embodied in a computer-readable medium, comprising:
  - 2            a code segment comprising information corresponding to a digital  
3 representation of an image; and
  - 4            a code segment comprising information corresponding to image meta-data  
5 associated with the image and identified by applying a predefined image analysis  
6 algorithm to the digital representation of the image.

1       5.     The image file of claim 4, wherein the image meta-data comprises at  
2     least one searchable keyword.

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1       6.     The image file of claim 4, wherein the predefined image analysis  
2     algorithm comprises a face recognition vector algorithm.

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1       7.     An image capture device, comprising:  
2       image capture hardware configured to capture an image; and  
3       logic configured for:  
4           generating a digital representation of the image, the digital  
5       representation comprising image data;  
6           applying at least one predefined image analysis algorithm to the digital  
7       representation of the image, the at least one predefined image analysis  
8       algorithm identifying meta-data corresponding to the image; and  
9           combining the meta-data corresponding to the image with the image  
10      data to define new image data.

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1       8.     The image capture device of claim 7, wherein the logic is software and  
2     further comprising a processing device for implementing the logic.

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1       9.     The image capture device of claim 7, wherein the logic is further  
2     configured for storing the new image data.

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1           10.    The image capture device of claim 7, further comprising a network  
2    interface device configured for communication with a communications network and  
3    wherein the logic is further configured for providing the new image data to the  
4    communications network.

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1           11.    The image capture device of claim 7, further comprising an interface  
2    configured for direct communication with a computer and wherein the logic is further  
3    configured for providing the new image data to the computer.

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1           12.    The image capture device of claim 7, wherein the image meta-data  
2    comprises at least one searchable keyword.

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1           13.    A method for generating an image file containing meta-data, the  
2    method comprising the steps of:  
3            identifying a digital representation of an image, the digital representation  
4    comprising image data;  
5            applying at least one predefined image analysis algorithm to the digital  
6    representation of the image, the at least one predefined image analysis algorithm  
7    identifying meta-data corresponding to the image; and  
8            combining the meta-data corresponding to the image with the image data to  
9    define new image data.

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1        14.     The method of claim 13, wherein the meta-data comprises at least one  
2     searchable keyword.

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1        15.     The method of claim 13, wherein the step of identifying a digital  
2     representation of the image involves receiving the image data.

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1        16.     A method for searching image files having specific image meta-data,  
2     the method comprising the steps of:

3            receiving a search query comprising information related to specific image  
4     meta-data;

5            based on the search query, searching one or more image files comprising a  
6     source code segment comprising information corresponding to a digital representation  
7     of an image and a source code segment comprising information corresponding to  
8     image meta-data associated with the image, the image meta-data identified by  
9     applying a predefined image analysis algorithm to the digital representation of the  
10    image; and

11           determining one or more of the image files in which the source code segment  
12    comprising information corresponding to image meta-data matches the specific image  
13    meta-data in the search query.

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1        17.     The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of providing the  
2     or more image files that match the specific image meta-data in the search query.

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1           18.     The method of claim 16, wherein the image meta-data and the search  
2     query comprises at least one searchable keyword.

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1           19.     A method for locating an image file, the method comprising the steps  
2     of:

3                 providing a search query comprising information related to specific image  
4     meta-data; and

5                 receiving one or more image files comprising a source code segment  
6     comprising information corresponding to a digital representation of an image and a  
7     source code segment comprising information corresponding to image meta-data  
8     associated with the image that matches the specific image meta-data in the search  
9     query, the image meta-data identified by applying a predefined image analysis  
10   algorithm to the digital representation of the image.

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20.     The method of claim 19, wherein the image meta-data and the search  
query comprises at least one searchable keyword.